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Letter dated 4 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the letter (S/2001/263) of Mr. Ali Khaleef Galayr of Somalia dated 21 March 2001 and addressed to the President of the Security Council. My Government finds the accusations levelled against Ethiopia outrageous and saddening.

The present note to the Security Council is intended solely to register for the record our total rejection of the portrayal of Ethiopia as a State bent on "destabilizing" Somalia. The contrary is true. This is exemplified by Ethiopia's positive actions during the past 10 years in helping Somalia. One of these actions, the hosting of thousands of Somali refugees, continues to this day. Currently, there are more than 250,000, bona fide refugees, with a similar figure also living with the host population.

This spirit of goodwill towards Somalia will continue, in cooperation with our partners in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). We will certainly not be deterred by the desperate statements coming from a group holed up in hotels in Mogadishu on a 2-square-kilometre radius with no authority anywhere else in Somalia and who are bent on raising the ghosts of hatred among our two peoples. They will fail dismally in this. We strongly advise them to concentrate on meaningful actions towards the reconciliation process within their country. Ethiopia should not be used as a scapegoat for their failures in that direction during the past seven months. Posturings at international gatherings and forums will not be a substitute for the failure on the internal front. What they have been "aggressively pursuing" is the attendance of international conferences and seeking millions to silence their opponents, and not "peaceful dialogue" with them or their main neighbour.

Finally, Mr. President, we hope that the Security Council's efforts will, as ever, be directed towards advising all concerned to work for genuine reconciliation in Somalia.

01-31960 (E) 040401

I would be grateful were you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdulmejid **Hussein**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative